Exception: The vault bottom may be flat if **removable panels** are provided over the entire vault. Removable panels shall be at grade, have stainless steel lifting eyes, and weigh no more than 5 tons per panel.

8. The highest point of a **vault bottom** must be at least 6 inches below the outlet elevation to provide for sediment storage over the entire bottom.
9. Provision for passage of flows should the outlet plug shall be provided.
10. Wetvaults may be constructed using **arch culvert sections** provided the top area at the WQ design water surface is, at a minimum, equal to that of a vault with vertical walls designed with an average depth of 6 feet. If arched culverts are used, the manufacturer must certify that they are water-tight.

    Intent: To prevent decreasing the surface area available for oxygen exchange.
11. Wetvaults shall conform to the **"Materials"** and **"Structural Stability"** criteria specified for **detention vaults** in Section 5.3.3.
12. Where pipes enter and leave the vault below the WQ design water surface, they shall be **sealed** using a non-porous, non-shrinking grout.

Inlet and Outlet

1. The **inlet** to the wetvault shall be submerged with the inlet pipe invert a minimum of 3 feet from the vault bottom (not including sediment storage). The top of the inlet pipe shall be submerged at least 1 foot. *Note: These dimensional requirements may increase the minimum 4 foot depth of the first cell, depending on the size of the inlet pipe.*

   Intent: The submerged inlet is to dissipate energy of the incoming flow. The distance from the bottom is to minimize resuspension of settled sediments. Alternative inlet designs that accomplish these objectives are acceptable.
2. Unless designed as an off-line facility, the capacity of the **outlet pipe** and available head above the outlet pipe shall be designed to convey the 100-year design flow for developed ***site*** conditions (as described in Section 5.3.4.2) without overtopping the vault. The available head above the outlet pipe must be a minimum of 6 inches.
3. The outlet pipe shall be back-sloped or have tee section, the lower arm of which shall extend 1 foot below the WQ design water surface to provide for trapping of oils and floatables in the vault.
4. A **gravity drain** for maintenance shall be provided if grade allows.

   a) The gravity drain should be as low as the ***site*** situation allows; however, the **invert** shall be no lower than the average sediment storage depth. At a minimum, the invert shall be 6 inches above the base elevation of the vault side walls.

      Intent: This placement prevents highly sediment-laden water from escaping when the vault is drained for maintenance. A lower placement is allowed than for wetponds since the v-shaped vault bottom will capture and retain additional sediments.

   b) The drain shall be 8 inches (minimum) diameter and shall be controlled by a valve. Use of a shear gate is allowed only at the inlet end of a pipe located within an approved structure.

      Intent: Shear gates often leak if water pressure pushes on the side of the gate opposite the seal. The gate should be situated so that water pressure pushes toward the seal.

   c) Operational access to the valve shall be provided to the finished ground surface. The valve location shall be accessible and well marked with one foot of paving placed around the box. It must also be protected from damage and unauthorized operation.

   d) If not located in the vault, a valve box is allowed to a maximum depth of 5 feet without an access manhole. If over 5 feet deep, an access manhole is required.

Access Requirements

Same as for detention vaults (see Section 5.3.3) except for the following additional requirement for wetvaults:

A minimum of 50 square feet of **grate** shall be provided over the second cell. For vaults in which the surface area of the second cell is greater than 1,250 square feet, 4% of the total surface area shall be grated. This requirement may be met by one grate or by many smaller grates distributed over the second cell area. If the vault is a single cell, ventilation shall be provided over the second half of the vault. *Note: a grated access door may be used to meet this requirement.*

Intent: The grate allows air contact with the wetpool in order to minimize stagnant conditions that can result in oxygen depletion, especially in warm weather.

Access Roads, Right of Way, and Setbacks

Same as for detention vaults (see Section 5.3.3).

Recommended Design Features

The following design features should be incorporated into wetvaults where feasible, but they are not specifically required:

1. The floor of the second cell should slope toward the outlet for ease of cleaning.
2. The **inlet and outlet** should be at opposing corners of the vault to increase the flowpath.
3. A **flow length-to-width** ratio greater than 3:1 minimum is desirable.
4. **Lockable grates** instead of solid manhole covers are recommended to increase air contact with the wetpool.
5. **Galvanized materials** should be avoided whenever possible.
6. The **number of inlets** to the wetvault should be limited, and the flowpath length should be maximized from inlet to outlet for all inlets to the vault.

Construction Considerations

Sediment that has accumulated in the vault must be removed after construction in the drainage area is complete. If no more than 12 inches of sediment have accumulated after the infrastructure is built, cleaning may be left until after building construction is complete. In general, sediment accumulation from stabilized drainage areas is not expected to exceed an average of 4 inches per year in the first cell. If sediment accumulation is greater than this amount, it will be assumed to be from construction unless it can be shown otherwise. The County will not release maintenance and defect financial guarantees or assume maintenance responsibility for a facility unless it has been cleaned of construction phase sediments.

Maintenance Considerations

1. Accumulated sediment and stagnant conditions may cause noxious gases to form and accumulate in the vault.
2. Facilities should be inspected annually. Floating debris and accumulated petroleum products shall be removed as needed, but at least annually. The floating oil shall be removed from wetvaults used as oil/water separators when oil accumulation exceeds one inch.
3. Sediment should be removed when the 1-foot (average) sediment zone is full thus 6 inches. Sediments should be tested for toxicants in compliance with current disposal requirements if land uses in the catchment include commercial or industrial zones, or if visual or olfactory indications of pollution are noticed.